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Parks and Recreation In Georgia

VOL. 2, NO. 2

THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1975

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

RECREATION PLANNING SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDS SEVEN NEW DEPARTMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources recently provided monies to help establish seven new recreation and park departments through the Recreation and Park Assistance Fund. The two-year old program is operated by the Recreation Planning Section, Office of Planning and Research and provides financial aid (on a 50/50 matching basis) and technical assistance to units of local government who desire to establish full-time recreation and park departments. The seven applicants which were approved to receive assistance this year include: Effingham County, Union County, Heard County, Jefferson County, White County, Washington-Wilkes County, and Bremen.

The General Assembly first allocated monies for the program in 1973 and beginning in 1974 twelve new departments were established in the state. In 1975, \$120,000 was appropriated for the program, and thirteen applicants were identified as meeting the criteria to receive funds. Applicant eligibility was based on written criteria, discussions with local officials, and site visitations.

This brings to nineteen the number of cities and/or counties throughout the state which have been aided through this program in establishing full-time recreation and park systems. Those funded in the previous year were: Adel-Cook County, Cedartown, Chatsworth-Murray County, Dooly County, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County, Ft. Valley-Peach County, Gilmer County, Glennville, Habersham County, Jackson-Butts County, Madison County, and Towns County. Additional funds will be sought in 1976 to continue the projects funded this year as well as to initiate new projects.

Applications for this program are generally accepted after January 1st of each year. Cities or counties which have no established recreation and park department on a full-time basis may seek additional information by contacting the:

Recreation Planning Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Room 703-B
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

CONFERENCE ON RECREATION AND PARKS

The 31st Georgia Conference on Recreation and Parks will be held at the new Holiday Inn on Jekyll Island on November 4-6 this year. Each year professional recreators and lay people from all over the state meet and attend sessions which cover a variety of topics pertaining to the broadest aspects of the recreation and park profession. The conference is sponsored by the Georgia Recreation and Park Society, Inc. whose membership numbers over 1,100, and a good turn-out is expected at the meeting this year. Featured speakers include: Reverend Nelson Price, Pastor of the Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, who will speak at the Lay Awards Banquet; Dr. Thomas B. Songster, Director of Sports and Recreation for Special Olympics, Inc. in Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Ney Landrum, Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Natural Resources, who will be the keynote speaker for the First General Session on the 6th. The new Holiday Inn is headquarters for the conference and reservations should be made directly to them.

NRPA TO DEVELOP PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SAFETY STANDARDS

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) will develop safety-related requirements applicable to public playground equipment. NRPA will develop the requirements by means of a 13 member, central "Development Panel", consisting of five consumers, two of whom are "Technically" oriented and three of whom are "user" oriented; four industry representatives; three buyer-installer representatives from the parks, recreation and schools fields; and one NRPA representative who will serve as the Project Coordinator.

The Development Panel will deal with six, broad hazard areas:

- contact with or by fixed or moving parts of equipment
- falls from equipment
- contact with surfaces installed under or directly adjacent to equipment
- entrapment and "other"
- structural failure
- layout, installation and or maintenance and human factors, with additional task groups to be added if necessary

Pertinent areas such as biomedical, design and engineering, hazard analysis, psychomotor development, psychology of play, testing, economic impact, human factors, legal considerations, etc., will be considered.

NRPA plans to negotiate an agreement with the Franklin Institute Research Laboratories (FIRL), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for all technical and testing aspects of the safety-related requirements development process. FIRL is a not-for-profit research and development organization having no affiliation with any manufacturers or special interest groups related to this project.

The Safety Commission will contribute \$87,650 toward the costs of developing the requisite safety-related requirements. Playground equipment manufacturers will contribute \$25,000 to the development process.

All persons interested in participating in the development of the safety-related requirements should contact *Mr. Robert Buechmer, Project Director, National Recreation and Park Association, 1601 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209, (703) 525-0606.*

PARKS & RECREATION MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

The Department of Natural Resources will co-sponsor a parks and recreation maintenance workshop on March 2-4, 1976. Two other agencies, the Georgia Recreation and Park Society and the National Recreation and Park Association, will help sponsor the conference which is planned presently to be held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center near Eatonton. The focus of the workshop will be on maintenance operations with a practical approach to solving day-to-day problems. More information concerning registration, subject matter, and costs will be outlined in forthcoming issues of this newsletter.



Pictured are from left to right (standing) Paul Lee, Member of the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Commission, Jimmy Jones, Cobb County Commissioner; and (seated) James L. Martin and Jennie Anderson, both members of the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Commission. The photograph was taken at the recent dedication ceremonies for Sweetwater Park, a new facility developed by the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. John Davis, President of the National Recreation and Park Association, was the featured speaker at the ceremonies.

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 19 - 24

NRPA National Congress on Recreation and Parks
Dallas, Texas

NOVEMBER 4 - 6

Georgia Conference on Recreation and Parks
Holiday Inn
Jekyll Island



Pictured are Susan St. James, star of stage, screen and television, and Ernie North, the goalie for the Georgia Floor Hockey team. Ernie is from Carrollton, and welcomes the congratulations from Susan.

MARTIN AND BILLUPS NAMED TO COUNCIL

Tom Martin and Marvin Billups were recently elected by the Georgia Recreation and Park Society Board of Trustees to serve as GRPS Representatives on the Southern District Council of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Martin, who is Supervisor of Recreation Technical Assistance for the Department of Natural Resources, was re-appointed for a three-year term.

Billups, who is Assistant Director of Recreation for the Atlanta Bureau of Parks and Recreation, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Jim Miller, Director, Cobb County Parks and Recreation, who resigned recently.

The Council is responsible for formulating priorities, programs, and projects for the Southern Region of NRPA and serves as an advisory body to NRPA's National Council.

NEW STADIUM AT AMERICUS

The Americus City Council recently voted to build a recreation complex and stadium utilizing \$100,000 in insurance funds received when the Community Center was destroyed by fire. Community Center funds will be replaced by a 25-cent fee charged on tickets sold for stadium events.



A shot of the action in the floor hockey competition at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, site of the International Games. The Georgia team all received Bronze Medals for their efforts.

SAVANNAH RECEIVES FEDERAL MONIES

John Tidwell, Director of the Savannah Department of Leisure Services announced recently that his department had received \$1.02 million in Federal monies from the Community Development Program and from the Department of Natural Resources. Funds will be utilized to build swimming pool and tennis court complexes, and to purchase playground equipment, fencing, and miscellaneous supplies and accessories. A total of 30 parks in the Savannah system will benefit from the allocated funds.

PARKS EXPANSION AT SANDERSVILLE

Mayor Frank Moye recently announced that Sandersville's city park was the recipient of \$10,000 from the Department of Natural Resources. Plans for improvement include a baseball softball field, three tennis courts, a swimming pool, lighted parking area, and site improvement and landscaping. Funds will be matched by the city, making it a \$20,000 project.

CLAYTON COUNTY ACQUIRES LAND

Tom Drummond, Director of Parks and Recreation for Clayton County, recently announced that his department has acquired two tracts of land which will be developed into park sites. Lands included a 25 acre tract in the northwest portion of the county, and a 38 acre tract in the northeast area. Monies from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation-Land and Water Conservation Fund were utilized to help purchase the parcels of newly acquired land.

INTERN CONDUCTS CHEERLEADING CLINIC

Miss Vickie Ward, who interned with the Ga. Special Olympics Program, conducted a cheerleading clinic for mentally retarded citizens in the Metro Atlanta area on August 14th. The clinic was held in conjunction with the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Department and involved approximately 30 participants. Vickie is a student at West Georgia College majoring in Recreation.

RECENT PERSONNEL ACTION

Promotions and New Assignments

College Park Recreation Dept.:
Albert Gallof - Center Director

Statesboro Parks & Recreation Dept.
Frank Hook - Co-Director of Recreation

New Appointments

Athens General Hospital:
Marilyn McClelland - Recreation Therapist

Bremen Recreation Department
Ben Hambrick - Director of Recreation

Clayton County Parks & Recreation Dept.:
Marilyn Henry - Therapeutic Specialist

College Park Parks Department:
Keith Jordan - Parks Superintendent

Fayette County Parks & Recreation Dept.:
Donald Sherwin - Director of Recreation

Hancock County Recreation Dept.:
Jimmy Dickson - Director of Recreation

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Dept.:
Ben Robertson - Director of Recreation

Jackson/Butts County Parks & Recreation Dept.:
Hollis Griggs - Director of Recreation

Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission:
Charles McGhee - Area Supervisor

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Jefferson County - Director of Recreation

Heard County - Director of Recreation

Dept. of Natural Resources, Recreation
Planning Section
Recreation Planner
Associate Planner-Therapeutics

ACT NOW - BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM POSSIBILITY

Attention Recreation and Park Directors! You can book a special Bicentennial production of *Tom Sawyer* into your high school or city auditorium or civic center as part of your plans to celebrate the Bicentennial and help raise funds for your department in the process. *Tom Sawyer*, available after April 24, 1976, and another exciting production, *Presto! A Magical Spectacular*, available after November 15, 1975, are both productions of ACT - Atlanta Children's Theatre.

ACT is a professional theatre company of Equity actors (adults) who perform classical and contemporary drama for children and young people. From its home in the Alliance Theatre at the Atlanta Memorial Arts Center, ACT has toured the state with lavishly staged productions of unrivaled quality. The company played before audiences totaling over 55,000 on tour last year including the cities of Macon, Augusta, Rome, Griffin, Newnan, Covington, Jackson, and LaGrange. The tour performances are not special, small scale packages but are the same full-scale productions seen on the Alliance stage in Atlanta and are suitable for presentation in high school or city auditoriums and civic centers.

ACT must contract for a minimum of \$2,200, i.e., three performances at a rate of \$900.00 for the first, \$700.00 for the second, and \$600.00 for each additional performance. School Board cooperation would be essential in order to secure permission for children to attend in-school performances which also insures the best participation. Ticket sales are handled locally while ACT provides promotional and educational materials and workshops if requested.

Recreation and Parks Department may contact the following person about contracting for a tour booking:

Betty Blondeau, Educational Coordinator
Atlanta Children's Theatre
P. O. Box 77324
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 892-7607 (collect)

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